



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Emergency Management

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**DISASTER FIELD OFFICE
5701 INDUSTRIAL PARK ROAD
NORTON, VIRGINIA 24273
FEMA-1411-DR-VA
Commonwealth Situation Report #4
Thursday, 9 May 2002**

1. OPERATIONAL PERIOD:

1200 hours 8 May 2002 through 1200 hours 9 May 2002. (New information in italics)

2. SITUATION:

On the evening of 28 April a severe weather system entered Virginia from the west and, once across the Blue Ridge Mountains, developed into a series of tornadoes. Local declarations of emergencies were declared in Bedford City, and Bedford, Campbell, Greenville, and Shenandoah Counties. On 2 May 2002, continuing severe weather impacted Virginia. Wind, rain and flood damage was again widespread with the most severe damage occurring in the southwest part of the state. In Buchanan County, heaviest damage was northeast of Grundy in the vicinity of Hurley, and was due to flash flooding and mudslides. Damaging floodwaters and strong winds also impacted nearby Tazewell County.

Local emergencies were declared in Bedford City and the counties of Bedford, Campbell, Shenandoah, and Greenville on 28 April 2002.

On 2 May 2002, Governor Warner declared a State of Emergency in the Commonwealth in response to the tornado damage on 28 April 2002. On 3 May 2002 the declaration was expanded to include the areas affected by the storms of 2 May.

Local emergencies were declared in Buchanan and Tazewell Counties on 2 May 2002.

On 3 May 2002, Governor Warner requested that President Bush declare a major disaster for Bedford, Campbell, Greenville, Shenandoah, Buchanan, Tazewell, Cumberland, and Prince Edward counties and for the cities of Colonial Heights and Bedford.

On 5 May 2002, President Bush declared a major disaster for the Commonwealth of Virginia in FEMA 1411-DR-VA in Buchanan and Tazewell Counties for Individual Assistance (IA) and Hazard Mitigation.

On 8 May 2002, the Major Disaster Declaration was amended to include Public Assistance for the counties of Buchanan and Tazewell.

Functions at the Wise DFO established in a prior declared disaster, DR-1406-VA, have been expanded to include operations for DR-1411-VA. The DFO hours of operation are 0800 hrs to 1630 hrs Monday through Saturday. The DFO will continue to be closed on Sundays. Situation Reports will be published daily.

In the flash flooding event in Hurley, Virginia, two deaths are confirmed, 0 missing. There have been 8 work related injuries reported. Power has been restored to 75-80 percent of the Hurley area. Telephone service is partially restored. Buchanan County schools have reopened but schools in Hurley will remain closed until further notice.

State agencies and other representatives on the scene include: Virginia State Police (VSP), Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM), Army National Guard (ANG), Virginia Department of Health (VDH), Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA), Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Army Corps of Engineers, *Virginia Employment Commission (VEC), Veterans Administration (VA), American Red Cross (ARC), Virginia Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VVOAD), and clean up crews from the Virginia Southern Baptist Disaster Services, Virginia Department of Corrections(DOC), and Virginia Wilderness Institute.*

3. WEATHER:

Thursday: Showers and thunderstorms likely mainly from early afternoon on. Rain may be heavy at times. Highs in the upper 70s and lows near 50. West winds 10-15 mph. Chance of rain 70 percent. Tornado Watch is in effect from 1115 hrs to 1600 hrs for parts of southwestern Virginia including Tazewell and Buchanan Counties. Friday: Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 60s and lows in the upper 40s. Northwest winds around 10 mph.

4. CURRENT PRIORITIES:

- A. Determine DRC Locations.
- B. Continue to process PDA data.
- C. Complete FEMA-State Agreement.
- D. Prepare for visit of Regional Director.
- E. Assess request for Public Assistance.
- F. Assess housing needs and availability
- G. Complete PDA's for Virginia.

5. ONGOING ACTIONS/ISSUES:

A. Individual Assistance (IA):

- A *fixed* Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) is located at the Hurley Elementary and Middle School on Route 643, in Hurley, Virginia as of Tuesday, 7 May 2002. Hours of operation are 0800 hrs to 1600 hrs seven days a week.

DISASTER RECOVERY CENTER
Daily Report

Hurley, Buchanan County, May 2002

Date	Today's Recp.	Phone Bank	AA*	SBA*	HazMit*	IFG*	DUA*	CC*	IRS*	AGRI*	INS*	AGING*	VOL*	LEGAL*	Local Official	Paper Apps.
08	50	25	46	40	45	3	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	77	30	50	47	67	5	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

*Applicant Assistance (AA), Small Business Administration (SBA), Hazard Mitigation (HazMit), Individual & Family Grants (IFG), Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA), Crisis Counseling (CC), Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Department of Agriculture, Farm Services Bureau (AGRI), Insurance Help (INS), Aging Services (AGING), Volunteer Agencies (VOL), Legal Help (LEGAL)

- *An inspection of a potential DRC site for Tazewell is being conducted 9 May 2002.*
- Residents requiring disaster assistance are being referred to the FEMA teleregistration number, 1-800-621-3362, TTY 1-800-462-7585. These numbers are staffed 7 days a week, 0700 to 1900 hrs.
- Red Cross is distributing meals prepared by the Virginia Baptists. Red Cross Family Services staff is located *on the second floor of the high school in Hurley adjacent to the DRC site as of 9 May 2002* and is fielding outreach service teams in the area.
- *Buchanan County Social Services is currently operating one shelter at the DRC location with 12 shelterees.*
- The Regional Health Department has administered *718 tetanus shots* to residents and workers at the Hurley Middle School.
- Food and water is being distributed at the school.
- The Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA) is helping Buchanan County find housing for victims.
- The Virginia Health Department continues its "boil water" advisory *for the Hurley area* and is providing information on restarting wells.
- Six pallets of 1260 gals of potable water *were provided by the State for distribution on 6 May 2002.*
- Donations are being received at the Hurley Middle School. Cash donations are being accepted by the Clinch Independent Living Services, PO Box 2741 in Grundy, Virginia 24614. Requested items include cleaning supplies, personal hygiene products, diapers, food, rakes and shovels, and work gloves.
- *The Human Services Program Summary as of COB 8 May 2002 follows:*

REGISTRATIONS & CONTACTS

	<i>Since Last Report</i>	<i>Designated Cities/Counties</i>	<i>Undesignated Counties</i>	<i>Cumulative</i>
<i>Teleregistrations</i>	<i>167</i>	<i>629</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>634</i>
<i>Helpline Calls</i>	<i>28</i>			<i>41</i>

Disaster Unemployment Assistance

<i>CLAIMS</i>	<i>SINCE LAST REPORT</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
<i>Filed</i>		
<i>Approved</i>		
<i>Paid (#)</i>		
<i>Paid (\$)</i>		

Disaster Housing Program

<i>REGISTRATIONS</i>	<i>SINCE LAST REPORT</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
<i>Received</i>	<i>144</i>	<i>556</i>
<i>Approved</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>34</i>
<i>Pending</i>	<i>109</i>	<i>514</i>
<i>Approved Eligible (\$)</i>	<i>\$52,553</i>	<i>\$66,136</i>
<i>ASSISTANCE CHECKS</i>		
<i>Recommended (#)</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Recommended (\$)</i>	<i>\$20,439</i>	<i>\$20,439</i>

Individual & Family Grant Program

<i>REGISTRATIONS</i>	<i>SINCE LAST REPORT</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
<i>Received</i>	<i>86</i>	<i>303</i>
<i>Received by State</i>		
<i>Pending Decision</i>		
<i>Eligible (#)</i>		
<i>Eligible (\$)</i>		
<i>Disbursed (#)</i>		
<i>Disbursed (\$)</i>		

Small Business Administration

<i>LOAN APPLICATIONS</i>	<i>HOME</i>	<i>BUSINESS</i>	<i>ECONOMIC INJURY (EIDL)</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
<i>Issued</i>				
<i>Received</i>				
<i>Declined</i>				
<i>Withdrawn</i>				
<i>Approved (#)</i>				
<i>Approved (\$)</i>				
<i>Pending</i>				

- Contact has been made with Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) requesting confirmation of Request for DUA and press release coordination.
- The Virginia Bar Association has activated a toll-free Disaster Legal Services Number, 1-800-552-7977, to provide emergency legal services to disaster victims.
- *Disaster assistance for Buchanan County has been expanded to include Emergency Food Stamps. Applications will be accepted 13 May 2002 through 17 May 9, 2002 from 0830 hrs to 1600 hrs at the Social Security office on Route 83 at Slate Creek. Contact for information is Buchanan County Social Services at 276-935-8106.*
- A phone bank has been established to coordinate volunteer groups offering assistance. Volunteers can call 276-935-7419; identify nature of call, what services they wish to perform, and a callback number.

B. Public Assistance (PA)

- *The National Guard was activated 3 May 2002 and assisted by installing temporary bridges. Later assistance has been and continues to be in debris clearance in the Hurley area.*
- *Lebanon VDOT reports all thoroughfares in the Hurley area are in use, both directions. Highway repair crews working in specific areas require one-way traffic for intermittent periods of time.*

C. Community Relations (CR):

- Two (2) VDEM Regional Coordinators are deployed in the Hurley community.
- *Three (3) FEMA Field Officers are deployed, one in Tazewell County and one in the Hurley community and other related areas.*
- VDEM Flood Recovery Bulletins, 1-800 and DRC flyers, *and FEMA Recovery Times* are being distributed throughout affected areas in Buchanan County.
- Audiotapes of disaster assistance information are expected to be available by 9 May.
- A temporary Post Office for Hurley will be set up in Blakely at the Blakely Teen Center and is scheduled to open Friday, 10 May 2002. Postal authority advises that Social Security checks saved from the flood will be distributed at that time. All mail gathering in Grundy will be distributed at the temporary facility. Mail to Hurley residents should use the normal Hurley address.
- *A location for a temporary banking facility in Hurley is in the process of being identified.*

D. Hazard Mitigation (HM):

- State Hazard Mitigation staff is scheduled to view Hurley area *in the near future.*
- Requested a copy of the Army Corps of Engineers study of the Buchanan County floodplains from the Huntington District.

E. Public Affairs Office (PAO):

- Public Affairs press releases have been issued on the DRC opening in Hurley, the scheduling of National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) workshops, *the PA declaration for Tazewell and Buchanan Counties, and the release of the first disaster assistance checks.*
- *Recovery Times being updated for Tazewell and Buchanan Counties with availability expected 10 May.*

F. Legislative Liaison:

- Governor Mark Warner, US Senator George Allen, State Senator Phil Puckett and State Delegate Jackie Stump visited disaster areas in central Virginia and in the community of Hurley in Buchanan County and Tazewell County on 6 May.
- *Advised State legislators whose districts include Buchanan and Tazewell Counties of the Federal Declaration for Public Assistance for these counties.*

G. Hazardous Materials:

- *Residents who find HazMat containers, drums, or spills on their property are being encouraged to call 276-566-8524 and regional HazMat responders will assess the situation and take corrective measures.*
- Significant HazMat operations are ongoing in Buchanan County. HazMat Teams from Wise County, Giles County and City of Salem have been working since the beginning of the event. As of 7 May they had collected 10-20 lb. propane tanks, 10-100 lb. propane tanks, 10 large (100-500 lb.) propane tanks, 27-65 gal. drums, 3-275 gal. tanks, 7-550 gal. tanks, 2-1,000 gal. tanks, numerous 5-gal. containers, and miscellaneous pesticides. Team members continue to walk the Knox and Right Fork Creeks in the Hurley area. A HazMat command post has been established adjacent to the DRC in Hurley.

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9 May 2002

Michael M. Cline, SCO